



TJAG Sends

A Monthly Message from The Judge Advocate General



"We must make jointness a natural condition for everything we do."

Army Strategic Planning Guidance 2005

We are in our fifth year of the Global War on Terror. In support of that protracted fight, our senior leadership has made the Army's overarching objectives extremely clear: first, the Army will continue to train Soldiers and grow leaders; second, the Army will provide relevant and ready landpower to Combatant Commanders and the Joint Team. Every one of us must understand that these two objectives form the basis for all Army Strategy.

The number of Joint Task Forces (JTFs) has grown steadily in recent years, and this reflects the Joint nature of the Global War on Terror. One of the major goals of the Army's transition to a Modular Force is to provide Combatant Commanders with Army forces with Joint and expeditionary capabilities. An operational Army organized around Modular Brigade Combat Teams will better meet the challenges of the 21st century security environment. This Joint trend is not limited to purely operational matters. It will increasingly impact the Institutional (or TDA) Army through initiatives such as Joint Basing and the proposed Joint Pre-Deployment and Mobilization Sites on Army installations.

These changes mean that all Army legal personnel must be capable of operating as an integral part of a Joint legal team. We must be careful not to focus solely on "Army" legal matters. All personnel – Soldiers and civilians, active and reserve components – must understand and embrace the unique challenges of operating in a Joint environment. Put simply, we must all do a better job of thinking "purple."

What can you do? If you are a leader, you should provide personnel within your office the opportunity to attend legal training focused on Joint operations. You must also develop procedures and policies that will ensure that your office supports Joint operations. You have a powerful tool at your disposal. Our Corps has a talented and growing cadre of Judge Advocates, Legal Administrators, and Paralegals who have diverse and extensive operational experience. These Soldiers have proven their ability to provide outstanding legal support to Joint operations and to meet the legal needs of the Joint Team. They are critical to our development of a deeper bench of legal professionals proficient in supporting Joint operations. Use them.

Transformation is continuous and ongoing; we will become more Joint, not less. Secretary Harvey has said that we are transforming the Army in an evolutionary fashion that leads to revolutionary results. Be part of that revolution. Learn more about the Joint community, and seek out positions in Joint commands. I have every confidence you will continue to set the standard with innovative ideas that will place the Army JAG Corps at the forefront of this change.

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